



# MISSOURI

dept. of

# Agriculture

## YOUR PETS AND COVID-19

### Can my pet become ill with or spread COVID-19?

A small number of pet dogs and cats have tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 after having close contact with people infected with COVID-19. To date, there is no evidence that animals can spread COVID-19 to people. It is important that pet owners continue practicing good hygiene during and after handling pets. Please see the [CDC's COVID-19 and Animals](#) webpage for additional information.

### Can I bring my pet to the veterinarian for care?

If you are healthy and your pet needs to see a veterinarian, please call your veterinarian before taking your pet to the clinic. Veterinary clinics are taking precautions and may have special operating procedures that you will be asked to follow.

If you are ill with COVID-19 and your pet needs to see a veterinarian, ask a healthy family member or friend to take your pet to see the veterinarian. As mentioned above, call the clinic first for instructions and inform them of your diagnosis.

### Can I have contact with my pet if I am ill with COVID-19?

If you are ill with COVID-19, avoid contact with your pet to protect them from possible infection. If possible, have another member of the household care for your pet.

If you are the only caretaker for your pet or you have a service dog, do not pet, snuggle, kiss or let them lick you, share food, or sleep in the same bed as your pet. Additionally, if you must care for your pet while sick, it is recommended to wear a face mask and wash your hands with soap and water before and after handling their toys, food dishes, etc. Please see the [CDC's If You Have Pets](#) webpage for more information.

### Should my pet be tested for COVID-19?

At this time, the Centers for Disease Control, American Veterinary Medical Association and the United States Department of Agriculture agree there is no need to perform routine testing of animals for COVID-19. If your pet is displaying signs of respiratory illness, please consult your veterinarian who can check for more common respiratory problems in animals.



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